



HATCHINGS from the USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA-3)

Commanding Officer: Capt. C.R. Solem
Final Edition - November 2002



CAPTAINS OUTLOOK

Dear Families and Friends,

November is a very exciting month as we head EAST for our eventual arrival in San Diego. Additionally, it is Military Families Appreciation Month by the Secretary of Defense in recognition of YOUR significant personal sacrifices, support and contributions made daily and especially during extended separations like our deployment.

The USS DENVER and MOUNT VERNON have rejoined us for the return transit after we stayed in the Arabian Sea region and they participated in exercises in Jordan and Kuwait. Regretfully, two marines participating in the Kuwaiti exercise were fired upon by assailants with terrorist ties and one Marine died from wounds received and the other is recuperating in the United States. This was a grim reminder that the freedoms we endeavor to protect are not free and our immediate prayers were with the families of all marines during the incident.

We recently received word that 136 sailors will be advanced following their results on the September advancement exams and those who were not advanced scored very highly. Advancements factor in points for evaluation marks, awards, time in service and rate, and other criteria in addition to the exams. MANY sailors are also earning their warfare specialty qualifications which also count as points for advancement. Our intention is to have a safe transit and port visits enroute to our Homecoming next month.

With gratitude and admiration,
Captain Solem

the EMPOWER YOURSELF ARG

“The best learning environment is the one where you don’t know you’re learning.”



Our final topic for the Empower Yourself Series will be, "Taking Pride In Being A Military Spouse/ Significant Other."

We hope you will come and take this opportunity to meet other military spouses and leave with renewed sense of pride in being a military spouse/significant other.

Tuesday, November 12th, 6:30 pm ,at the Murphy Canyon Chapel. Child care provided.

TEAM OMBUDSMAN

November is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, this seems like an appropriate time to express our sincere thanks to our *friends and families* of Belleau Wood.

We are very thankful for your consistent showing of love and support to our service members, without you this deployment would not of been successful.

We look forward to seeing you on the pier for Homecoming!

Gratefully,

Kelley and Cindy





From the Desk of Father Shaughnessy.....

Suffering

Marc Chagall is one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. His work is found in cathedrals, opera houses, and synagogues from New York to Paris. In his autobiography, Chagall writes about how he grew up in a poor Jewish family of ten in a small town in Russia.

His interest in art was aroused one day as he watched a classmate copy a picture from a magazine. His dream of being an artist eventually took him to Paris, where he won worldwide acclaim. Chagall never forgot the poverty of his youth. At one point in his book he states, he was grateful for his poverty. He always thought the poverty of his youth gave his work its beauty and sensitivity.

Suffering is a reality. Suffering helps us to understand our existence and it is part of our life. Life comes to be in the suffering of childbirth, and if it is to mature, it will be in suffering. "God has given man the possibility to enjoy many things, but the price is fatigue; on every work of art there are tears" (Leonard da Vinci). From the non-Christian point of view, pleasure is the goal of life; for the Christian, pleasure is the reward.

If we do not know how to suffer, we cannot understand others, we cannot love; when we know how to accept suffering, we become capable of loving.

The story of Marc Chagall illustrates three points. The first point is that the cross, that is to say suffering, will always be a part of life. For Chagall, that was being one of ten children and being poor. For others, it's being born disabled. For others it is some other tragedy, such as suffering the death of a loved one. Regardless of who we are, the shadow of the cross is never very far from us.

This brings us to our second point. When it comes to the cross in our life, we have a choice to accept it or reject it. That is to say, we can pick up our cross and carry it, or we can turn away from it and refuse to carry it.

Marc Chagall carried his cross of poverty. People born with a disability, or people suffering from a tragedy in life, have the same choice Chagall had when he left Russia.

Dante lived an extremely difficult life; he was exiled and condemned to death in his absence. Beethoven was deaf and constantly afflicted with family problems. Giuseppe Verdi created "Nabucco" after the death of his wife and children. Dostoevski had to write in exile.

Thirdly, if we pick up our cross it will lead us to life. Not only life eternal in the next world but also life, right now, in this world.

Chagall accepted his poverty and did not let it embitter or destroy him. As a result, that cross of poverty, gave his art its unique sensitivity and beauty. Without his poverty, Chagall would have been just another artist. The same is true for us. If we pick up our cross as Chagall did, our cross can also become a blessing and a stepping-stone to greater things.

WELCOME Grace Elizabeth Eikenberry , born October 24th to LT & Carrie Eikenberry.

WELCOME Baby Boy Benefiel, born September 10 th to ACAN & Leasa Benefiel.



Are you expecting a **New Hatching**? Do you have a

New Hatching? Please let us know by emailing or calling the careline. New Dads will be the first off at

Homecoming. New dads are defined as those who

have had a baby during deployed months only.

You ask...We Answer Return and Reunion

What is it? An interactive discussion with FFSC educators/ specialist who know the challenges that can occur during this phase of the deployment. These will be the same educators/ specialists that will be onboard Belleau Wood.

When is it?

Monday, Nov. 18th at 7:00 pm in the Main Chapel

Where is it?

The Murphy Canyon Chapel (Aero and Santo Road)

Who should Go?

Anyone with a loved one onboard Belleau Wood

More Info? Call or email the ombudsmen



SPOTLIGHTing....

Knott's Berry Farm Armed Forces Salute

November 3 -24, 2002

During this time period free admission to Knott's Berry will be available for past and present Military. Free admission includes the veteran or current military personnel and spouse (or one guest), plus up to two dependent children (ages 3-11)! Free admission offer not valid for special ticket events, including Halloween Haunt. Proof of military service (DD214, Veterans Administration Hospital ID or Active/Retired Military ID) required and must be shown at Knott's Berry Farm entrances. In addition to your military ID, you will need this letter from Captain Solem as proof of deployed active duty spouse. Have a great time! For more information please contact Knott's Berry Farm at (714) 220-5200.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA 3)
FLEET POST OFFICE
FPO AP 96623-1610

November 2, 2002

Knott's Berry Farm
8039 Beach Boulevard
Buena Park, CA 90620

Guest Relations Manager:

This letter is written on behalf of our families and loved ones residing in Southern California. It has been brought to my attention that your company is offering free admission to active duty service members and their families when the service member is present. USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA 3) is currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and our nation's war on terrorism. Because of the sacrifices our families have made I request that you allow them to utilize the benefit you have so graciously offered to all active duty service members and allow them to enjoy your wonderful theme park without their deployed spouses.

It is because of great companies like yours, that the U.S. Navy enjoys such a great quality of life in Southern California. The generosity displayed by your organization is worthy of recognition and your support of our families and the Armed Forces of the United States are greatly appreciated.

Please accept a copy of this letter on my official letterhead as proof of their spouse's deployment and thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

C. R. SOLEM
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA 3)

LINGO Showdown

What a wonderful response to Reverse Lingo! Our winning service members for October are: FC3 Wilson & AK1(AW) Garcia.



First Kiss winners will be VIP's at Homecoming. Once you're on the pier you will need to check in with the ombudsmen.

First Kiss Winners Re-Cap

June– Lou Ann Mc Donald, spouse of HT3 Michael Mc Donald and Katja Story, spouse of IT1 Mario Story.

July–Melissa Phillips, spouse of AS3 Robert Phillips and Sarah Garringer, spouse of LN1 Bryan Garringer.

August–Erica Edwards, spouse of OS2 Edwards of Comphibron 5 and Jilleen Kesler, Spouse of ENS Scott Kesler.

September–Marina Farillas, spouse of ABH3 Alberto Farillas and Gail Meadors, spouse of AO1 Tony Meadors.

October–Melissa Wilson, spouse of FC3 Jeremy Wilson and Lenore Higbee, spouse of AT1 Thomas Higbee.



Thanks again for playing -
Congratulations!

Did You Know?

The **USO** is hosting **Thanksgiving Dinner**!

Thursday, November 28- Enjoy a Thanksgiving Day Feast at the USO's downtown center complete with turkey and all of the trimmings. Meal begins at 3:00 p.m. and is served until 4:00 p.m. After the free, home cooked meal, enjoy football and snacks with your buddies on the USO's big screen television. Downtown center closing early at 7:00 p.m. Call 619.235.6503 for more details

MOM is here for **CHRISTMAS**!

MOM (formerly Military Parish Visitors) has an outreach to struggling military families at Christmas as we follow the model of God in the giving of Jesus for the Salvation of humankind. We have many individuals, families, organizations and churches who contribute to this outreach. There will be several ways for families to be blessed, each family request will be honored by one source. If you are a family needing help and you will not be traveling home, please call the voice message and follow the directions you hear. Then someone will return your call to gain further information. The phone lines will open Nov. 4. Outreach leaders will not be taking requests this year. You must call the phone line and speak to a Christmas volunteer to indicate your need. Christmas numbers: North County: 599-3402 All other areas: 1-866- 9738-MOM

HOMEcomings UPDATES...

Listen to carelines frequently!
Visit the website often at lha3.navy.mil

What's that NUMBER again?

Careline: 877.668.8036 or 619.699.8469



Email: bwdombudsman@hotmail.com

Emergencies : 619.666.9624 or 619.666.9628

Family Matters Activities : 619.699.8469 x3
out going message only.

THE MAKING OF THE LEI, SIGNS AND BANNERS

The Family Matters Event for December is the making of the lei, signs and banners for Homecoming. We will meet December 8th, from NOON to 5:00 pm. EVERYONE is welcome. Please bring a sack lunch for each of your family members. Dress comfortably. The location will be posted on the Family Matters careline at 3# by the beginning of December. We will also be sharing the latest information we have regarding the ships arrival at this time.

DON'T MISS IT. COME BE A PART OF THE MAKING
OF THE LEI, SIGNS AND BANNERS!